

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A vacuum fluorescent display comprising:
a front glass member which has light transmission properties at least partly;
a substrate opposing said front glass member through a vacuum space;
a phosphor film formed on a surface of said front glass member which opposes said substrate and having a predetermined large-area display pattern;
~~an~~ a surface electron-emitting portion comprising a coating film formed of a large number of nanotube fibers, said surface electron-emitting portion is mounted on said substrate to oppose said phosphor film and having an electron-emitting surface corresponding to the large-area display pattern;
an electron extracting electrode arranged in the vacuum space between said surface electron-emitting portion and said phosphor film to be spaced apart from said surface electron-emitting portion by a predetermined distance; and
an insulating support member formed on said substrate having partitions for supporting said electron extracting electrodes and dividing the electron-emitting surface of said surface electron-emitting portion into a plurality of regions, said partitions being made of material from which a larger number of secondary electrons than that of bombarded electrons are emitted.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A display according to ~~claim 2~~claim 1, wherein said partition comprises partitions that are arranged substantially equidistantly to be parallel to each other.

Claim 4 (Original): A display according to claim 3, wherein the partitions have heights of 0.2 mm to 2.0 mm each and are arranged at an interval 1/2 to 5 times the height.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A display according to ~~claim 2~~claim 1, wherein said partition divides the electron-emitting surface of said surface electron-emitting portion into a plurality of electron-emitting regions of almost the same shape.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A display according to claim 5, wherein the electron-emitting surface of said surface electron-emitting portion is divided into a plurality of stripe regions parallel to each other.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A display according to claim 5, wherein said insulating support member has an opening corresponding to the large-area display pattern, and
said partition is integrally formed with said insulating support member so as to divide the opening into a plurality of slit-like divisional openings.

Claim 8 (Original): A display according to claim 1, wherein said electron extracting electrode is formed of a mesh-like metal plate, and is supported by said insulating support member to be spaced apart from the electron-emitting surface by a predetermined distance.

Claim 9 (Original): A display according to claim 1, wherein said electron extracting electrode is formed of a conductive film formed at a top of said insulating support member.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A display according to claim 1, wherein said surface electron-emitting portion is formed of a larger number of carbon nanotubes formed of cylindrical graphite layers.

Claim 11 (Original): A display according to claim 1, wherein said surface electron-emitting portion comprises
a plate-like metal member having a large number of through holes and serving as a growth nucleus for nanotube fibers, and
a coating film formed of a large number of nanotube fibers formed on a surface of the metal member and on walls of the through holes.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A display according to claim 1, wherein said surface electron-emitting portion and said phosphor film comprise a plurality of sets of

electron-emitting portions and phosphor films provided in the vacuum space in one-to-one correspondence for each display pattern.